

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SY-10 CCO-00 USSS-00

INRE-00 A-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 OC-06 DRC-01 RSC-01 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5651

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 14218

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FOR S/S TOSEC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), LE

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHANGE OF SITE FOR SECRETARY'S TALKS IN LEBANON

1. PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL GHANEM HAVE PROPOSED UTILIZING RAYAK AIR FORCE BASE IN EASTERN LEBANON AS SITE FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY IF WEATHER PERMITS. THIS HAS ENORMOUS ADVANTAGES SINCE TALKS AND LUNCHEON WOULD TAKE PLACE ON BASE, WITHIN SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS OF AIRCRAFT. BOTH ON GROUNDS OF SECURITY, WHICH WOULD BE EXCELLENT, AND SIMPLIFYING ENTIRE VISIT FOR SECRETARY, RAYAK WOULD BE MUST PREFERABLE TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT EITHER BAABDA OR BEITEDDINE.

2. DRAWBACK TO RAYAK IS ABSENCE OF INSTRUMENT FACILITIES FOR APPROACH, LANDING, AND DEPARTURE. MOST RECENT WEATHER FORECAST INDICATES WORSENING CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT ENTIRE AREA. RAYAK NOW ESTIMATING BROKEN TO OVERCAST AROUND 7000-10000 FEET WITH 10 KM VISIBILITY UNDER CLOUDS. BEIRUT FORECAST IS FOR WINDS 15-25 KNOTS GUSTING TO 35 FROM 100 TO 230 DEGREES, OVERCAST AT 2600 FEET, CUMULUS WITH ISOLATED BURIED CUMULONIMBUS. THIS MAKES USE OF RAYAK VERY UNLIKELY.

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WE SHALL COMMUNICATE DEFINITE DECISION TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

VIA EMBASSY AMMAN PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM AMMAN OF SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT.

3. FREQUENCIES FOR CONDITIONAL LANDING AT RAYAK ARE TOWER PRIMARY - 120.7 (ONE TWO ZERO POINT SEVEN), TOWER SECONDARY 119.5 (ONE ONE NINE POINT FIVE), APPROACH PRIMARY 119.7 (ONE ONE NINE POINT SEVEN), APPROACH SECONDARY 116.1 (ONE ONE SIX POINT ONE).

4. PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS AND LUNCHEON WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. SCENARIO FOR OFFICIAL PARTY, SECRETARIAT, AND PRESS WOULD BE MODIFIED IN VARYING DEGREES.

5. WE FORESEE LITTLE NEED FOR MODIFICATIONS IN SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL PARTY AT RAYAK, AND GOL REPS WOULD BE SAME AS NOTED SEPTELS. FACILITIES FOR S/S WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN OFFICES AT AIR BASE. PRESS PARTY AND NON-WORKING MEMBERS OF SECRETARY'S PARTY WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY VISIT ANTIQUITY SITE AT NEARBY BAALBECK.
BUFFUM

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NNN

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